

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended): A cap for a tube in which a liquid medicine flows, said cap being detachably connected to a distal end of the tube, comprising:

a cylindrical main body which has an outer wall, an inner wall, a first open end which is to be detachably connected to the tube, a second open end which is opposite to the first open end, and a passage for communicating with the tube and the outside, the passage being formed between the first open end and the second open end,

an inlet port through which the medicine and air flows into the passage from the tube, the inlet port being disposed at the first open end;

a cylindrical and hollow liquid absorption member disposed at or near the inlet port in the passage to surround the passage; and

a gas permeable and liquid impermeable filter for blocking the passage at a position farther than the liquid absorption member from the inlet port; and

a closure which is connected to the second open end to close the main body at the second open end and which has an exhaust hole to remove air from the passage,

wherein the tube carries a liquid medicine from which air to be removed,

wherein said cap is detached from the tube when supplying the medicine to a subject;

wherein the main body further comprises a connection projection which extends from the first end of the main body and which is coupled to the tube, the connection projection having an outer wall and an inner wall, wherein the outer wall of the connection projection has a smaller diameter than the outer wall of the main body, and the connection projection has an inwardly extended protrusion toward the passage in a way to form an annular trench between the inner wall of the main body and the inwardly extended protrusion;

wherein one end of the absorption member is fixedly fitted into an annular trench;

wherein the closure further comprises a stepped extension toward the passage of the main body such that the stepped extension and the inner wall of the main body form a space between them, and the other end of the absorption member is fitted into the space and abuts on a step of the stepped extension; and

the stepped extension separates the gas permeable and liquid impermeable filter from the absorption member.

2. (canceled).

3. (original): The cap as claimed in claim 1, wherein the liquid absorption member is made of a sponge material.

4. (original): The cap as claimed in claim 1, wherein the liquid absorption member is made of a fiber material.

5. (original): The cap as claimed in claim 1, wherein the filter is made of a porous plastic resin material.

Claims 6-8 (Canceled)

9. (Currently amended): A liquid medicine supplying apparatus for supplying a liquid medicine, comprising:

a liquid medicine reservoir;

a pressure device for applying pressure to the liquid medicine stored in the liquid medicine reservoir;

a tube of which one end is connected to the liquid medicine reservoir; and

a cap according to claim 1 connected to the other distal end of the tube,

the apparatus further comprising a flow control device including a member that is connected to the cap and is to be removed according to the detachment of the cap from the tube when upon supplying the liquid medicine to a subject.

10. (Canceled)